

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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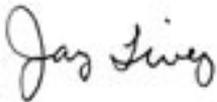
Dear Alaskans:

On behalf of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, we are pleased to present *Creating Healthy Communities: An Alaskan Talking Circle*, a plan which gives insight into how Alaskans from rural and urban communities, Native organizations, state and federal agencies, and private businesses and organizations can put traditional and new knowledge together to reach the goals for improved health. Together with the information on many targets in Volume I, the strategies described here may encourage and inspire solutions to problems that affect health and well-being.

The Alaska Division of Public Health will use the Healthy Alaskans 2010 process to monitor changes in the health status of Alaskans over the next 10 years. Healthy Alaskans 2010 serves as a framework for health policy development, identifies the best indicators of health status, sets ambitious but achievable targets, and shares information with all partners. We will also continue to facilitate the sharing of effective local and statewide programs and strategies. We encourage schools and communities to carry forward the approach used in this book, to share good ideas and to discover approaches that are culturally relevant and effective.

We encourage you to use this plan and work with us to improve the health of all Alaskans by the year 2010. Together we can achieve our goals of eliminating health disparities and ensuring that all Alaskans have access to quality care.

Sincerely,



Jay Livey  
Commissioner



Karen Pearson  
Director of Public Health